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Housekeepers! Chat

Wednesday, March 4, 1931.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Spring Clothing for the Youngest." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

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Let's start out today by discussing our menu and then I would like to make a few remarks, here and there, about the children's clothes for spring. When you have your sewing room all organized and everything ready for the spring sewing season, then you'll want to think about patterns and materials. What to choose for Ann's school dresses and her new best frock as well as Jack's rompers and sun suit. My Next-Door-Neighbor plans her sewing campaign all out on paper ahead of time. Then she knows exactly what materials and supplies she must purchase and the jobs which she must do first, second and third.

An orderly method of work in sewing as well as in other household tasks saves a lot of time and energy and prevents fuss and bother.

But we were planning to start with the menu, weren't we? A noon time meal today. The youngest members of the family always have their heartiest meal at noon. The grown-ups, of course, can take their choice. Some like their dinner at noon and their supper at night; others like luncheon at noon and dinner at night. The menu today is suitable for the children's and the grown-up's main meal. The principal dish is a souffle, a cheese souffle, one of the best egg dishes I know of. Is a cheese dish suitable for children? Yes, if it is a souffle or some other mixture in which the cheese is not too dense and concentrated but is divided and distributed by the other ingredients. In this recipe the cheese is finely divided by the white sauce and the egg. American cheddar cheese, made of whole milk, is used and a very good protein it is, too. Such a combination of eggs, cheese and milk makes a very satisfactory main dish for variety the year around, and is suitable just at this time for one of the special days during Lent.

The main dish, then, is Cheese Souffle; next Buttered Peas, either new or canned; Creamed Carrots; and finally, Pineapple, Celery and Apple Salad.

The recipe for cheese souffle is on your shelves. You will find it on page 24 of your radio cook book and also in your egg leaflet. Remember that all egg dishes should be cooked with very moderate heat. Too high a cooking temperature toughens the white of egg. Long slow cooking is the secret of success. The moderate heat makes the air bubbles in the egg whites ex-

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pand and makes the mixture light throughout without toughening it. When baked at very moderate heat for an hour or longer, a souffle which is served immediately will fall but slightly. It will not collapse like a pricked ballon as does a souffle, omelet, whip, or meringue that has been baked so rapidly as to overcook the outside before the center is set. Remind the family that they must come to the table on the dot or the main dish will not be light and attractive.

A salad containing fruit very often makes a satisfactory dish to top off the meal instead of dessert. So today we suggest an attractive, refreshing salad made of diced pineapple, celery and apples. If you have red apples don't peel them. The red skin adds a bright touch of color to the salad. Of course, you know that you can buy canned pineapple cut up as well as in slices. This saves the work of dicing it, and it is often a little less expensive. We suggest boiled dressing that is not too acid for this salad. The very youngest children in the family, however, will have their salad without any dressing.

Once again, our menu today is: Cheese Souffle; Peas, buttered; Creamed Carrots; and Salad of pineapple, celery and apples on lettuce. And the recipe for the souffle is in the green cook book, page 24.

Most up-and-coming mothers today are planning clothes for their children that will help the children dress themselves at an early age. Such garments save a lot of work for Mother and teach small Ann and Jack the independence and self-reliance that are most valuable to their success all through life. That is why all the new spring outfits should have front opening wherever possible; good sized buttons, that small fingers can handle easily; buttonholes that slip on and off buttons easily; elastic webbing : . . across the back of small panties to do away with that button in the middle of the back, always so difficult to reach. School clothes for both warm and cold weather should be durable and serviceable so that a child will not be hampered by fear of tearing or soiling them. Do you remember poor shy little Paul Prim in the second grade who didn't dare run and play with the other toys for fear of hurting the velvet suit Aunty had made for him? All garments should be loose and comfortable to give plenty of freedom for growth and activity. Simplicity in design and construction means that the garment will be more becoming to the child, will provide more comfort and convenience and will gave mother a lot of trouble in laundering. Frills and fluffy ruffles don't bring happiness to any child. In choosing material it is the part of wisdom and economy to select only those fabrics that can be easily cleaned and laundered. Dresses for small girls may be made of cheerful prints, gingham, lawn, linenand percale. Dress-up frocks for parties and other special occasions may be made of dotted Swiss, voil or batiste.

What about fabrics for Junior's little two-piece suits? For the small trousers my friend, the clothing specialist, suggests poplin, broadcloth, pique, drill, galatea and chambray. Sturdy practical materials, you see, that will stand a good deal of wear and tear. For the blouses there are printed or plain ginghams, percale, Cotton pongee and broadcloth.

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Choose colors that are fast to sun and laundering. If you are in doubt, bring home some samples and experiment with them to see if the color fades or runs. Materials that are evenly woven, firm, durable, nonshrinkable and not easily wrinkled are best. Firm fabrics will not need starching after laundering. Starching so often makes scratchy seams that irritate the child's tender skin.

Time is almost up, but I do want to remind you of the bulletins on children's clothes prepared at the Bureau of Home Economics and waiting right here on the shelves ready for you to send for. There are three leaflets which will make a fine set for your file.

All ready for spring. Each leaflet is full of illustrations and practical ideas. Each will be helpful whether you make the children's clothes or whether you buy them ready made. One leaflet describes children's sunsuits and another ensembles for sunny days. Then there is a leaflet on suits for your small boy.

Tomorrow: "Paper for Kitchen Johs."

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